

Weber County Economic Events

A new 140,000-square-foot Meier & Frank store is the eighth in Utah and the only Meier & Frank store to open this year. The freestanding, one-story department store at 1134 W. Riverdale Road occupies the former Wal-Mart building that was vacated after a Super Wal-mart was built nearby. The May Department Stores Co., which operates Meier & Frank through its Robinson-May division, gutted the Wal-Mart store, expanded it and rebricked the façade. The new store employs about 125 people and features one of only a handful of the company's new "lifestyle" layouts. Customers can expect to find more and brighter lighting; express checkouts as well as traditional registers, and a store layout that groups girls' and women's clothing by life- style, casual or tailored, for example. *Salt Lake Tribune 08-12-03*

A \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce is the final piece of funding that will turn Ogden's historic American Can Facility into a high-tech center and a science and technology charter school. The grant, along with \$900,000 from the state and city tax-increment financing totaling several million dollars, will turn the 89-year-old building at 251 S. 20th St. into a research park with incubator space and laboratories for entrepreneurs, plus a high-tech charter high school for 400 students in grades nine to 12. *Salt Lake Tribune 07-16-03*

A different breed of Wal-Mart stores is starting to pop up in Utah with the first Neighborhood Market opening soon in South Ogden. Wal-Mart's Neighborhood Markets are basically grocery stores with some added amenities. The Neighborhood Market store will offer a traditional grocery store selection with the added convenience of a drive-through pharmacy, half-hour film processing, speedy checkouts and the same prices found at a normal Wal-Mart store. The 40,000-square-foot South Ogden store is planned to open in early August. The store is just off of Highway 89 at 1604 Skyline Drive. *Standard Examiner 07-12-03*

Kimberly-Clark Corp. plans to move as many as 200 jobs from a manufacturing plant in Draper and up to 150 from its Pocatello plant to a plant in Magdalena, Mexico as part of company-wide cost-cutting. A spokesperson said Kimberly-Clark's Ogden plant, which currently employs about 450 in the manufacture of Huggies diapers, will not be affected "at all" by the move. The cuts will be achieved over the next two to three years through attrition, and that no layoffs will be necessary at either of the affected plants. *Standard Examiner 07-02-03*

Demolition crews have finished clearing the site of the old Kmart building at 36th Street and Wall Avenue, making way for construction to begin on a new Costco. The new membership retail store is expected to open its doors Nov. 1. It will take up most of the 14 acres of land that Kmart left behind. Costco offers a variety of food products, including fresh meat, bakery, produce and gourmet deli, as well as non-food products such as jewelry, clothing, books, electronics, tires, housewares, office supplies and

sundries. Other departments include a pharmacy, an optical center and one-hour photo development. *Standard Examiner 06-16-03*

Ogden-Hinckley Airport will receive \$2.25 million in funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation for runway improvements. The airport received the first phase of funding for the runway earlier this year, and DOT will release the final funds this week to complete the project. *Salt Lake Tribune 06-11-03*

Levolor-Kirsch Window Fashions is drawing the blinds on its Ogden assembly operations, leaving 220 out of work and eliminating much-needed manufacturing jobs from the Top of Utah. The company will continue a painting operation and a distribution center employing 60 at the Ogden facility. *Standard Examiner 04-26-03*

Weber State trustees have approved the university's plan to offer an institutional certificate for health care coding and classification. Medical coders translate health conditions into about 80,000 codes for insurance companies. The certificate, which can be achieved entirely through WSU Online, replaces a certificate of completion previously offered by the health administration department of the College of Health Professions. The new certificate is seen as making it easier to lure coding businesses to Utah and also making students eligible for financial aid. The coding profession is ranked as one of the top 10 fastest-growing jobs in the nation. *Salt Lake Tribune 01-10-03*